

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 /090 W
-----009767 150128Z /70

R 131102Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7584
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19847

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, ASEAN, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET FETE FOR ASEAN

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 6788

1. SOVIET CHARGE HELD A LUNCHEON JULY 7 AT THE SOVIET
CHANCERY FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ASEAN STATES MINUS
THAILAND. GUESTS INCLUDED THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR AND TWO
FILIPINO COLLEAGUES, THE SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIAN AMBASSADORS
AND THE NEW INDONESIAN MINISTER, K.P.H. SIAHAAN, WHO PASSED
THIS TALE TO EMBASSY. NO THAIS WERE INVITED. OSTENSIBLY,
THE LUNCHEON WAS TO CELEBRATE THE VISIT OF MRS. IMELDA MARCOS
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TO THE SOVIET UNION, BUT THE SOVIET CHARGE USED THE OCCASION
TO EXPRESS SUPPORT OF THE VIETNAMESE "ZONE OF PEACE,
INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY."

2. SIAHAAN TOLD EMBASSY THAT THE SOVIET HOST DELIVERED
A DISCOURSE WHICH WAS PATTERNED CLOSELY AFTER AN ARTICLE
ON ASEAN RUN IN THE JULY 8 NATION REVIEW. ARTICLE, WHICH

WAS RELEASED IN BANGKOK, WAS SUPPOSEDLY WRITTEN BY A
"POLITICAL COMMENTATOR FOR THE AGENCY OF PRESS NEWS,"
MR. V. KUDRYAVTZEV. DESPITE A REFUSAL BY THE SOVIET
EMBASSY TO COMMENT DIRECTLY ON THE ARTICLE BY KUDRYAVTZEV,
THE SOVIET CHARGE MADE THE SAME POINTS TO HIS GUESTS AS
HAD BEEN MADE IN THE ARTICLE. PRINCIPAL POINT WAS THAT
ASEAN COULD NOT ACHIEVE ITS GOAL FOR A ZONE OF PEACE,
FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY WITHOUT "THE PARTICIPATION" OF THE
INDOCHINESE STATES. (KUDRYAVTZEV IN HIS ARTICLE HAD ALSO
PRAISED THAI PM KRIANGSAK FOR HAVING CALLED "PERSONALLY"
FOR THE ADMISSION OF THE INDOCHINESE STATES INTO ASEAN.)

3. COMMENT: SIAHAAN DESCRIBED THIS DINNER PARTY AS BIZARRE.
EVIDENTLY, MOSCOW HAS DECIDED NOT TO LEAVE THE ASEAN FIELD TO
PEKING, AND, LIKE HANOI, IS VYING FOR ASEAN ATTENTION.
AS KUALA LUMPUR POINTED OUT IN THE VERY INTERESTING REFTTEL,
THE MOTIVES OF NEITHER ARE BENIGN. THE ASEAN STATES,
HOWEVER, SEEM WISELY WARY OF SOVIET AND VIETNAMESE OVERTURES.
O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO19847
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780290-0081
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780766/aaaacdoj.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 62c47e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KUALA LUMPUR 6788
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2027161
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET FETE FOR ASEAN
TAGS: PEPR, UR, ASEAN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/62c47e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014